UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.241/42
27 November 1995

Original: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Eighth session
Geneva, 5-16 February 1996
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties
3. Special action
   - (a) urgent action for Africa
   - (b) action taken in other regions
4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention
5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the ninth session
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighth session

GE.95-64329

Annotations to the agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Arrangements have been made for the eighth session to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, on 5-16 February 1996.

At the seventh session, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the eighth session, as contained in Appendix IV of the Report of the seventh session (Document A/50/74/Add.1). The provisional agenda is submitted for adoption.

A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in Annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the Secretariat's world wide web site at the following address on the Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/>. A tentative schedule of work is provided in Annex II.

The session will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee at 15:00 p.m., on 5 February. The Plenary will hear statements from representatives of INCD member countries, Heads of UN Agencies and the Chairman of the Committee. After these statements, the Executive Secretary will introduce the documents prepared by the Secretariat.

Under this agenda item, the Committee will also review document A/AC.241/9/Add.10 on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

The Bureau will meet, prior to the opening of the session, at 10:00 a.m., on 5 February.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties

This agenda item refers to issues which require a decision at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or soon thereafter. The INCD initiated work on these issues at its seventh session in two working groups, in accordance with resolution 6/1 on the organization and programme of work for the interim period. The current status of each issue is set out below.

Working Group One Issues:

(a) *To initiate measures relating to the identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including its operational modalities*: in accordance with INCD decision 7/2, the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/43 providing a compilation of provisions of the Convention relevant to the functions and modalities of the Global Mechanism, a compilation of views at the seventh session and any supplementary submissions received not later than 15 October 1995, a draft list of criteria for the selection of an institution and any additional and complementary information received from institutions invited by the Chairman to advise on their interest and capacity to house the Global Mechanism.

(b) *To make recommendations for the designation by the Conference of the Parties of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning*: the Group will have before it, as requested in INCD decision 7/6, document A/AC.241/44 providing the report of the Secretary General on the nature of administrative arrangements that can be provided and on support from the United Nations to the Permanent Secretariat without being fully integrated in the work programme and management structure of any particular programme.

(c) *Financial rules*: consistent with decision 7/3, the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/45 containing a revised version of the draft financial rules taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the seventh session.

(d) *Programme and Budget*: consistent with decision 7/4, the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/46 containing a revised version of document A/AC.241/36 taking into account the views expressed at the seventh session as well as views communicated to the secretariat.

Working Group Two Issues:

(a) *Organization of scientific and technological cooperation, in particular the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology, the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts, and the terms of reference and modalities of work of any ad hoc panels that the Conference of the Parties may decide to appoint*: the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/47 containing, in accordance with INCD decision 7/9, draft terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology on the basis of comments and suggestions made at the seventh session and of further views communicated to the Secretariat in writing before 15 October 1995, and (b) a compilation of views by INCD members at the seventh session on the roster of independent experts and ad hoc panels.

(b) *Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties*: consistent with decision 7/7, the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/48 providing a revised text reflecting comments and discussions made at the seventh session.

(c) *Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation, as well as measures taken by Member States and international and other relevant organizations*: the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/49 containing, in accordance with INCD decision 7/8, a draft decision of the Conference of the Parties based on document A/AC.241/39, on comments and suggestions made at the seventh session and on written contributions.

(d) *Procedures to resolve questions on implementation*: Article 27 of the Convention provides that "the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention". The Group will have before it document A/AC.241/50 reviewing the main considerations pertaining to this item and suggestions with respect to future steps.

(b) *Procedures for conciliation and arbitration*: Article 28, paragraphs 2 and 6 of the Convention provide that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt annexes on conciliation and arbitration "as soon as practicable". The Group will have before it document A/AC.241/51 reviewing this issue and including draft annexes.

3. Special action: urgent action for Africa and action taken in other regions

The Plenary will continue its examination of measures taken to implement the resolution on urgent measures for Africa, as well as action taken in other regions.

The Executive Secretary will report on measures taken by the Secretariat to facilitate special action, on cooperation with relevant bodies or agencies and coordination with other conventions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention

The Executive Secretary will present a status report on this item. The Committee may wish to consider whether any action is required to promote ratification and accession.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/52 submitted by the Secretariat indicating the present status and funding needs of the Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries, and the Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the ninth session

The provisional agenda for the ninth session will be attached to the report of the eighth session.

7. Adoption of the report of the session

A draft report on the work of the session will be presented for consideration by the Committee, in accordance with established practice.

ANNEX I

List of documents for the eighth session of the Committee

A/AC.241/42	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/43	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/44	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/45	Financial rules
A/AC.241/46	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/47	Scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/48	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/50	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation
A/AC.241/51	Procedures for conciliation and arbitration
A/AC.241/52	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.10	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Other documents of relevance

Secretariat documents:

Fifth session:

A/AC.241/27	Final text of the Convention

Sixth session:

A/AC.241/28	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/29	Work programme for the interim period and preparation for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/30 and Add.1	Compilation of information on implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa
A/AC.241/31	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

Seventh session:

A/AC.241/32	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/33	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/34	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/35	Financial rules
A/AC.241/36	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/37	Scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/38	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/39	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/40	Implementation of urgent action for Africa and action in other regions: compilation of information
A/AC.241/41	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.9	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation
A/AC.241/40	Compilation of information on implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa
A/AC.241/41	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/41/Ad.1	" "

Report of past INCD sessions:

A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the INCD on its fifth session
A/50/74	Report of the INCD on its sixth session
A/50/74/Add.1	Report of the INCD in its seventh session

General Assembly resolutions:

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/115 of 19 December 1994

Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

ANNEX II

Tentative schedule of work

Date	Plenary	Working group I	Working group II
Monday, 5 Febr A.M.10:00	Bureau meeting		
P.M.15:00	Adoption of agenda and organization of work; introductory statements; status of signature and ratification (Doc. A/AC.241/42)	------	------
Tuesday, 6 February A.M.10:00	Special action: urgent action for Africa	------	------
P.M.15:00	" "	------	------
Wednesday 7 February A.M.10:00	Special action: action taken in other regions	------	------
P.M.15:00	" "	------	------
Thursday, 8 February A.M.10:00	-----	Global Mechanism (Doc. A/AC.241/43)	Rules of procedure of the COP (Doc. A/AC.241/48)
P.M.15:00	------	Global Mechanism (Doc. A/AC.241/43)	Communication of info and review of implementation (Doc. A/AC.241/49)
Friday, 9 February A.M.10:00	------	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat (Doc. A/AC.241/44)	S&T cooperation (Doc. A/AC.241/47)
P.M.15:00	------	Financial rules (Doc. A/AC.241/45)	S&T cooperation (Doc. A/AC.241/47)

Date	Plenary	Working group I	Working group II
Monday, 12 February A.M. 10:00	Review of session progress Review of situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (Doc.A/AC.241/52) Accreditation of non-governmental organizations (Doc. A/AC.241/9/Add.10)	------	------
P.M. 15:00	------	Programme and budget (Doc. A/AC.241/46)	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation (Doc. A/AC.241/50)
Tuesday, 13 February A:M. 10:00	------	[Item to be determined]	Conciliation and arbitration (Doc. A/AC.241/51)
P.M. 15:00	------	" "	[Item to be determined]
Wednesday, 14 February A.M. 10:00	------	" "	" "
P.M: 15:00	------	" "	" "
Thursday, 15 February A.M. 10:00	------	" "	" "
P.M. 15:00	------	------	------
Friday, 16 February A.M. 10:00	Adoption of report and provisional agenda of ninth session	------	------